

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 7, and 13-16. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 as containing informalities. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7-9, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,408,395 to Sugahara et al. ("Sugahara") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0009705 to Thelander et al. ("Thelander"); rejected claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugahara in view of Thelander and U.S. Patent No. 6,928,567 to Nakai ("Nakai"); and rejected claims 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugahara in view of Thelander and Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-110085 to Yamanaka et al. ("Yamanaka").¹

Regarding the objection

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection to claim 1 as containing informalities. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite "time zone information" instead of "time information," as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 1.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3, 7-9, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugahara in view of

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Thelander, because Sugahara and Thelander at least fail to teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-3, 7-9, and 13-16.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a combination including, for example, “a time acquisition unit configured to periodically acquire the system time counted by the internal clock unit; [and] an operation mode acquisition and determination unit configured to acquire a current operation mode and to determine whether the current operation mode corresponds to a desired operation mode, based upon the time zone information set by the time setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit.” Sugahara fails to teach or suggest at least these features of amended claim 1.

Sugahara teaches that “the information processing system includes a first information processing apparatus 1 which is used as a server, and a plurality of second information processing apparatuses 2 (only 1 shown) which are used as clients, and these first and second information processing apparatuses 1 and 2 are coupled via a network 3.” Sugahara, column 4, lines 21-27, emphasis added. However, Sugahara fails to disclose or suggest “a time acquisition unit configured to periodically acquire the system time counted by the internal clock unit,” as recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that Sugahara teaches that “when changing over to a scheduled power save operation mode, status information is received representing a current operation mode. If it is determined that the current operation mode does not correspond to a desired operation mode (i.e. the scheduled power save operation mode) a reissue of the power save mode control is made to change to the desired

power save operation mode. By definition, a scheduled event occurs when a current time reaches a preset time.” (Office Action at 3.) Applicant respectfully disagrees.

However, even assuming the Examiner’s allegation is true, which Applicant does not concede, Sugahara’s teaching of determining current operation mode by receiving status information “via the network 33 or, after a predetermined time elapses from the output of the power save control signal” (column 7, lines 1-5) does not constitute “an operation mode acquisition and determination unit configured to acquire a current operation mode and to determine whether the current operation mode corresponds to a desired operation mode, based upon the time zone information set by the time setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit,” as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). In fact, Sugahara is completely silent whether the received status information contains any system time of client 32. Further, Sugahara’s predetermined time elapse relative to the output control signal teaches away from using “the time zone information set by the time setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Moreover, in Sugahara, a “client 32” is controlled by a “server 31” which is connected to the “client 32” via a network, and it appears the control cannot be operated by the “client 32” alone. However, in the information processing apparatus of the present invention, when information processing is suspended in a normal mode and resumed in a time zone to which a power saving mode should be applied, or when information processing is suspended in the power saving mode and resumed in a time zone to which the normal mode should be applied, the changeover to a proper

operation mode can be immediately done by the information processing apparatus alone, in contrast to Sugahara.

Thelander fails to cure the deficiencies of Sugahara. Thelander teaches that “a power management profile may include one or more groups of power settings, together with a schedule for implementing those power settings.” Thelander, para. [0046].

Further, “the interface 401 may, for example, permit the user to modify the settings in fields 445 and/or 447 and 449, or provide an override button that allows the user to override implementation of the power management profile.” Thelander, para. [0048].

However, Thelander's teaching of merely changing power settings does not constitute “an operation mode acquisition and determination unit configured to acquire a current operation mode and to determine whether the current operation mode corresponds to a desired operation mode, based upon the time zone information set by the time setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit,” as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, neither Sugahara nor Thelander, taken alone or in any reasonable combination, teaches or suggest all claim elements of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of amended claim 1. Because claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, Applicant also requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 3 for at least being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Further, amended independent claims 7 and 13-16, while of different scope, include similar recitations to those of amended claim 1. Amended claims 7 and 13-16 are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect

to amended claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 are also allowable at least in view of their dependence from allowable claim 7. Applicant also requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of amended claims 7-9 and 13-16.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugahara in view of Thelander and Nakai.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from amended claim 1, and claims 10 and 12 depend from amended claim 7. As set forth above, Sugahara and Thelander fail to teach or suggest "an operation mode acquisition and determination unit configured to acquire a current operation mode and to determine whether the current operation mode corresponds to a desired operation mode, based upon the time zone information set by the time setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit," as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added), or "an operation mode acquisition and determination unit configured to acquire a current operation mode and to determine whether the current operation mode corresponds to a desired operation mode, based upon the correlation of the operation modes with the time zones set by the third setting unit and the system time acquired by the time acquisition unit," as recited in amended claim 7.

Nakai fails to cure the deficiencies of Sugahara and Thelander. The Examiner alleges that "Nakai explicitly teaches that power can be conserved in a power saving mode by reducing a disk rotation speed [col. 18 lines 12-20]." (Office Action at 5.) Even assuming the Examiner's allegation is true, which Applicant does not concede, Nakai fails to teach or suggest at least the above listed features recited in amended claim 1

and required by dependent claims 4 and 6, or the above listed features recited in amended claim 7 and required by dependent claims 10 and 12.

Therefore, none of Sugahara, Thelander, and Nakai, taken alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests all elements required by claims 4, 6, 10, and 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 4, 6, 10, and 12.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugahara in view of Thelander and Yamanaka. Claims 11 depends from claim 7 and claim 17 depends from claim 1. Yamanaka also fails to cure the above deficiencies of Sugahara and Thelander.

The Examiner alleges that "Yamanaka explicitly teaches conserving power by throttling a processor speed rather than running a processor fan [abstract]." (Office Action at 6.) Even assuming the Examiner's allegation is true, which Applicant does not concede, Yamanaka fails to teach or suggest at least the above listed features recited in amended claim 1 and required by dependent claim 17, or the above listed features recited in amended claim 7 and required by dependent claim 11.

Therefore, none of Sugahara, Thelander, and Yamanaka, taken alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests all claim elements required by claims 11 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 11 and 17.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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